

**HEAD STACK ASSEMBLY INCLUDING A TRACE SUSPENSION  
ASSEMBLY BACKING LAYER AND A GROUND TRACE FOR  
GROUNDING A SLIDER**

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

[0061] A head stack assembly includes a flex cable assembly. The head stack assembly further includes an actuator arm and a load beam coupled to the actuator arm. The head stack assembly further includes a trace suspension assembly backing layer coupled to the load beam and including a gimbal. The head stack assembly further includes a dielectric layer disposed upon the trace suspension assembly backing layer. The head stack assembly further includes a slider supported by the gimbal. The head stack assembly further includes a ground trace disposed upon the dielectric layer with the dielectric layer between the ground trace and the trace suspension assembly backing layer. The ground trace extends along the actuator arm and is electrically connected to the slider and the flex cable assembly for grounding the slider to the flex cable assembly.